NEW YORK HERALD.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.-LARSS OF KILLARNET-BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway .- THE LIVE IN-WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.-HAMLSY.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.-BYRRYBODT'S OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—The STREETS OF NEW NEW BOWERY THEATRE, BOWERY.-MAKEPPA-

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery .- DARK TROTT-MICHAEL BARNUM'S MUSEUM. Broadway.—Two Mannots Par WOMEN-LIVING SKELETON—DWARF—LEARNED SEAL—GIANT BOY-THE UNION PRISONER—Day and Evening.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broad WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 514 Broadway - STREETS SALLE DIABOLIQUE, 585 Broadway.-Rosent HELLER'S

DODWORTH HALL, 806 Breadway.-Mg. GRORGE VAN-VAN AMBURGH & CO.'S MAMMOTH MENAGERIE,

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 444 Broadway. BALLETS

HOOLEY & CAMPBELL'S MINSTRELS, 199 and 20

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.-

New York, Wednesday, February 1, 1865.

THE SITUATION.

Peace rumors again fill the air. There seems to b rood authority for stating that the rebel Vice President Rophens, accompanied by the rebel Senators R. M. T. Hunter and Campbell, came within General Grant's lines on Monday, and were desirous of being permitted to visit Washington in an unofficial capacity, in order to talk ers over. General Grant being absent at the tim they were detained until his return yesterday morning, when they received permission to pass through his lines and are now understood to be on their way to Washing

From Port Royal we have confirmation of the occupa tion of Saltketcher by a portion of General Sherman' army, the rebels having evacuated the place on the advance of the Union forces, and retreated to Ashepo, in the direction of Charleston. A portion of Admiral Porter's fleet had arrived in Charleston harbor.

the Potomac. Deserters report that the enemy are re astructing the railroad destroyed by the Fifth corps in raid to Hicksford, but are making slow progress large bridge near Weldon, North Carolina, was swept away by the late freshet. Major General Warren has re serned and resumed command of his corps.

The rebel General Price's old army-the main body of which is reported to be at Fulton, on the Upper Red river-is represented to be in a terribly demoral-Canarala Facanta and Parsonal brigar prising all the troops of Price's army that have returned to Topeka, from which place the Missouri expedition originally set out-are at Camden, Arkansas. The rebels have an entire division at Grand Ecore, and are fortifying. General Kirby Smith's headquarters are still at Shreveport; but there is no large body of rebel troops there A division of rebel cavalry has lately been sent to Texas, to be dismounted for infantry service. Two of the fleet of steamers which went up the Arkansa river to Fort Smith were captured and burned by the

We have further particulars from Key West, Fla. relative to the loss of the United States sloop-of-war San Jacinto. She struck on a reef, between Green Turtle Key and No Name Key, early on the morning of the 1st ult., and bilged. The officers and crew, including about forty sick were all saved and landed on No Name Key. Fifty-one of the crow, however, had deserted. The entire battery of the vessel, together with stores, sails and other portable property, was also saved. At last advices the wreckers were dismantling the San Jacinto, but were

not allowed to touch any portion of her machinery. The United States steamer Alabama has arrived at Hampton Roads from New Inlet. N. C., having on board as prisoners ninety-one of the officers, crews and pas sengers of the blockade runners Blenheim, Charlotte and Stag, captured by Admiral Porter's fleet in Cape

A letter, received at Roanoke Island, from a gentle man residing in the interior of North Carolina, states that a large number of Union prisoners and citizens many of whom had been removed from Georgia and South Carolina, are now at Salisbury, N. C., suffering from actual starvation, the number of deaths from that cause alone averaging fifty per day. The writer urges the Union authorities to take immediate steps for their release. Deserters from our own and the rebel armies are wandering about robbing citizens generally of any

The report of the evacuation of Mobile by the rebels published in yesterday's HERALD, was received from the flagship of the Union squadron off Mobile on the

N. B. Davis, the rebel bearer of despatches from Pich. mond to Canada, and identified at Newark, Ohio, as keeper of the Andersonville (Ga.) prison, has been seutenced to be hung on Johnson's Island February 17.

The Supervisors' committees, appointed to confer with the State and Washington authorities on the subject of the quota called for from this city, left yesterday for Albany and Washington, for the purpose of conferring with the State Legislature and of presenting a protest egainst the arithmetic of Propost Marshal General Fry. They will strive to induce the authorities either to reduce the quota or to grant an extension of time. The Provost Marshal has fixed the quotes of the different wards of Brooklyn, comprising the Third Congressional district. Sixteen bundred and forty-one men are called for.

A meeting of loyal Georgians is to be held at the Cooper fastitute on the 15th instant. The call for the meeting tes that the signers hall the promise that the loyal stizens of that State may soon be permitted to return to

their homeannd again enjoy the protection of the govern ment of the United States with unmingled pleasure. Loyal citizens of the insurgent States are earnostly invited to attend.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, resolutions of the Ohio Legis lature against the passage of the Bankrupt bill and in favor of repealing the duty on printing paper, were preented, and ordered to be printed. The Secretary of Wa having officially stated that General Banks and General Les were before the Committee on the Conduct of th War, Mr. Wade took occasion to rectify the statement, and wished it to be understood that neither those officers were detained from active dut by the committee. A bill providing for the extinction of the Scheldt dues was reported and ordered to President for information regarding Mr. Blair's missio to Richmond, and Mr. Johnson offered a substitut will come up to-day for consideration. A bit authorizing a contract for carrying the California mails via the Isthmus, the compensation not to exceed four hundred thousand dollars for a semi-monthly, six hundred thousand dollars for a tri-monthly, or eight hundred thousand dollars for a weekly line, was referred to the Post Office Committee. The resolution advising retaliation in the treatment of prisoners of war was amended, and finally adopted by a vote of twenty-four to

In the House of Representatives, the consid the Senate joint resolution prohibiting slavery through adopted by a vote of 119 to 56, being more than the re misite two-thirds. Upon the declaration of the vote the members of the House and a dense throng of spectator in the galleries, gave expression to their loy in long and rociferous applause.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the State Senate yesterday the bill to incorporate the New York and Union Yacht Club was reported. The pills noticed were those to incorporate the State Tem-perance Society, and for the construction of a pier in the late the fees of physicians and surgeons in certain cases and authorizing the Supervisors of New York to rais money to pay such bounty to volunteers as they may deem proper. The State Bounty bill, which provides a hundred dollars for one, two and three year men, pro nibits all local bountles, and authorizing the creation of debt of thirty millions of dollars for the purpose was adopted; also bills amenting the charter of the Moore's Patent Fire Arms Company, and appropri ating two hundred thousand dollars for the of the sick and wounded soldiers of this State in the service of the United States. The bills providing for the appointment of five Commissioners of Appeals, and amending the charter of the Brooklyn Morcantile Li-brary Association were taken up and ordered to a third

In the Assembly Mr. Reed introduced a bill to enable the Board of Supervisors of this city to provide mean courage enlistments and pay bounties to volunteer which was referred to a special committee of three. Bill pany of New York; to increase the compensation of supervisors to three dollars per day; to legalize the ordi-June 25, 1864; relative to common schools in this city Mr. Van Buren reported a bill for the better protection of

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The steamship City of Cork, from Liverpool on the 18th and Queenstown at 3:35 P. M. on the 19th uit., ar rived at this port yesterday. Her news has been antici-

We have dates from Hayana to the 25th ult., and from San Salvador to the 19th of January. The news of the fall of Fort Fisher had reached Havana, and the blockade runners were decidedly blue in consequence. On the 23d a grand bazaar or charity fair was opened at Havana, n the presence of his Excellency the Captain General The object is the enlargement of the Orphan Asylum and increase of its funds. The chief attraction is a prize given by the Countess Villanneva of a set of diam diadem, earring, necklace and bracelet—svalued a \$17,000. Señor Duenas has been re-elected Presiden of the San Salvadorean republic. The government of San Salvador has released the two pirates who were arrested on their way to take possession of one of the California steamers, the tribunal declaring the government had no ight to punish them, although they confessed their guil The British government has suppressed its vice consu lates. The indigo trade is buoyant; but the cotton crop The prospects of the sugar crop of Trinidae are good, in spite of excessive rains. A French man-ofwar had arrived at Santa Lucia, and demanded the de livery of four deserters from the French navy, which was refused, the courts declaring that the men were free the moment they set foot on English soil.

The Hudson's Bay Company sold, at their house in Fenchurch street, London, on the 18th ult., 83,699 bea ver skins, 291,875 musquash and 5,088 American rab The prices realized were about ten per cent above those obtained at the corresponding sale last year. It forms a striking contrast to this somewhat primitive trade learn that the company have already shipped the telegraphic wire and other materials of the contemplated line cross the continent to British Columbia. The whole arrangements are not yet concluded for connecting the line with the nearest point in Canada, a stretch of try lying beyond the existing settled portion of Upper Canada before the territory of the company is reached; but probably no difficulty need be apprehended on this

The Albany Investigating Committee are still engaged Carr was yesterday examined at length upon his connec tion with and knowledge of the department, developing ome interesting facts. Other witnesses were examined with a view of showing how offices were sold.

The Coroner's jury in the late Washington tragedy have returned a verdict that Andrew Jackson Bur-roughs came to his death by a ball fired from a pistol in he hands of Mary Harris.

A merchant, named Max Winternitz, of Newcastle, Pennsylvania, was brought to this city yesterday, on a requisition from Governor Fenton, charged with fraudu ently obtaining goods and merchandise to the value of \$10,408 10 from the firm of H. B. Claffin & Co., on the Tombs in default of \$20,000 bail.

The Coroner has postponed his investigation in the ashington street poisoning case until Friday morning No further deaths are reported, and, with the excepti of the little girl named Mary Morrison, who died, all the supposed poisoned persons have recovered, and appear to be in the enjoyment of perfect health.

Samuel Miller, residing at 117 Lewis street, committee suicide while in a state of partial derangement by cutting his throat with a pocket knife on Sunday last. The Coronor was notified, and an inquest will be held to-day. According to the City Inspector's report there were 496 deaths in the city during the past week—a decrease

of 28 as compared with the mortality of the week previous, and 2 less than occurred during the corresponding week last year. The deaths by smallpox numbers The stock market was heavy yesterday and lower lovernments were firmer in the morning, but lower in the afternoon. Gold was weak and excited, and after opening at 211 closed at 203%.

The fall in gold, under the peace rumors, unsettled nercantile affairs to a marked degree, and rendered values of nearly everything entirely nominal. Foreign goods were quiet, but domestic produce went down with The four market was dull and 10c, a 20c, lower. Whea declined 2c. a 3c., with only a moderate business trans acted. Corn was quiet, while outs were in active der and firm. The pork market opened dull and lower, but closed firm, with an increased demand. Beef steady, while lard was heavy and quiet. Whiskey firmer and more active. Freights dull but firm.

The market for beef cattle was decidedly firmer. There were not much more than half cattle enough, and prices accordingly were advanced from 2c. to 3c.—ranging from bout 23c. to 25c., chiedy 19c. a 22c. Milch cows were firmer—11c. a 14c. Sheep and lambs were active and firmer, ranging from \$6 50 to \$12, with extras at a much higher figure. Hogs sold at 13c. a 14 4c. The total receipts were 4,488 breves, 87 coms, 519 yeals, 15 973 sheep and lambs, and 1,727 hogs.

The Crowning Event of the War-The Constitutional Abolition of Slavery Throughout the United States.

The proceedings in the Congress of the United States were signalized vesterday by one of the most remarkable, important, desirable decisive and momentous events in the records of this or any other nation of modern or ancient times. We refer to me vote—119 to 56 in the Heuse of Representatives by which the constitutional amendment declaring slavery abolished and forever hereafter interdicted throughout the United States passes from Congress to the final ratification of three-fourths of the thirty-six States belonging to the Union.

The fifth article of the federal constitution

provides that "the Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary shall propose amendments to this constitution, or, on the application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by conventions in threefourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by Congress." This is the constitution, and that its framers contemplated an amendment abolishing or affecting slavery is apparent from the proviso which immediately follows-that "no amendment which may be made prior to the year 1808 shall in any manner affect" the African slave trade, which, as a compromise with the South Carolina planters and New England slave traders, was authorized by the constitution to be continued down to the year 1808. Thus the authority and the intention of the constitution are plain; and whether by State conventions or by the State legislatures, we are confident that this amendment will secure the ratification of the three-fourths of all the States required to make it a part of the "supreme law

of the land." The institution of slavery may thus be considered as abolished throughout the United States. The experiment of a Southern confederacy, by war against the Union, and for the protection, perpetuation and expansion of Southern slavery, has destroyed it. Otherwise, by adhering to the Union, the rebellious States, or a large portion of them, might have preserved their "peculiar institution" for a hundred years to come. Now the pressure of this exhausting war has driven the rebel leaders to the dreaded alternative of discussing the proposition of abolishing slavery to save the confederacy. When they thus admit that slavery, the cause of their rebellion, must be abandoned to maintain their confederacy, they are but a step from the abandonment of their confederacy itself, slavery and all.

In this connection, we have some private in formation from Washington, communicated several days ago, to the effect that the passage of this aforesaid constitutional amendment will be immediately followed by another peace mission to Richmond, or by a committee of peace ambassadors from Richmond, to treat for peace upon the basis of submission to the Union. It is somewhat remarkable, too, that on the very day of the passage of the amendment in question, a peace commission of three or four distinguished men from Richmond should be applying for a passage through our military lines and a permit for a trip to Washington. It has been further intimated to us that Mr. Seward has been exceedingly anxious for the passage of this const tutional amendment as the initial point of a great peace compromise with Jeff. Davis, embracing a reconstruction of the Union.

We are promised the most wonderful developments in this direction, in consequence of the passage of this amendment. Assuming, however, that all such promises rest upon idle speculations, we have still abundant cause for gratification over yesterday's work in Congress. It puts an end to all tinkering abolition experiments at Washington and Richmond; it banishes all doubts as to the fate of African slavery in this country; it settles the slavery question, and removes that stumbling block from American politics, North and South. It cuts off the last pretext for European intervention in be half of Davis, prepares a solid and enduring platform for the reunion of the loyal and rebellious States, and the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine in an easy alliance with all the independent States of North and South

Hence we congratulate the American people, North and South, on the grand success of this great measure in both houses of Congress for the constitutional abolition of slavery through the length and breadth of the land, in every place and forevermore. Congress responds to the will of the people. Let the States now ratify their work.

Louis Napoleon's Mexican Scheme and the "Manifest Destiny" of the Monro

Doctrine. The Mexican colonization scheme of Louis Napoleon, under Dr. Gwin, late United States enator from California, is a political movement involving the grandest designs and the most important consequences, not only in reference to the future of Mexico, but touching the settlement of this rebellion and the "manifest destiny" of the Monroe doctrine.

What the Mexican scheme of Louis Napoleon is we are no longer left altogether to conjecture. Our Paris correspondent, in his letter of the 17th ultimo, throws considerable light upon the subject. He says that orders have been sent to Marshal Bazaine to occupy the province of Sonora in the name of France, and to hold it as a pledge till the stipulated indemnity from Maximilian should be paid up; that this means a permanent occupation by France; that the tion, either at Albany or Washington. A very good fellow in the day of good fellows. a

rich province; that he was at bottom of the ill-starred filibustering expedition of Count Raouset de Boulbon, in 1854, from California; and that Dr. Gwin, while in Paris, had two private interviews with the Emperor, and several with the Duke de Morny, and that without doubt the whole programme was arranged before the tially confirmed by our late intelligence from San Francisco, of Dr. Gwin's arrival in Sonora, and of his appointment as colonial Governor of that and several other States adjoining it, and of his plans and purposes. Nor can we doubt that Dr. Gwin, as a California Senator at the time, was thoroughly posted in regard to Count Boulbon's expedition, and we dare say that it was from that affair that the Doctor seized with the idea of achieving some day for himself a more successful adventure in the same direction. His mind and Napoleon's had for years been brooding over this enterprise, so that when these two remarkable men were brought ogether each discovered that he had found

he very man that he wanted. From these and other facts before us it is aparent that the designs of Napoleon in this rand Mexican colonial enterprise, under Dr. Gwin, comprehend the permanent occupation of the richest mineral regions of Mexico as a colony of France, and the settlement therein of large bodies of adventurers from the United States of Southern proclivities. Nor can we doubt that an invitation from Dr. Gwin, as the captain general or viceroy of France over this new colony, will attract to it thousands of congenial spirits, despairing of Davis and groaning under Lincoln, not only from California, but from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and every other State, South and North, between Mexico and the Canadas.

We shall not be surprised if, in view of the impending downfall of Davis his confederacy, we shall hear the news, with the return of spring, that a mighty stream of Southern emigrants, resembling the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, is pouring over the plains of Texas. estined for the promised land of the French Imperial-Mexican colony of Dr. Gwin. Why not? Southern society, communities, families, institutions, business, everything, has been broken up and threwn into chaos by this terrible war. From their sinking confederacy, from the devastation, wrecks and ruin around them. thousands of Southern men will be glad to escape to the inviting land of refuge opened to them by Napoleon and Dr. Gwin. It is possible, under these circumstances, peace or no peace, that before the close of the coming sumner their new colony will be strengthened to the extent of fifty thousand American soldiers. And what then?

We may then expect a repetition of the game of Texas. While that country was yet a province of Mexico settlers from the United States were invited into it on liberal terms. We know what followed. They poured in by thousands, estless, turbulent, unfortunate and desperate, but active and enterprising men. They soon built up a powerful community; but thus organized, the people thereof, in race, language, religion, laws, customs and manners, were different from those of Mexico. dominant race asserted its power, achieved the independence of Texas, established a new republic, and then the people thereof annexed it their "old flag," the flag of the Union. So it will be with Dr. Gwin's new colony. Over the-Latin race therein the Anglo-American race will seen assert its supremacy, and repeat the Texas programmes.

Here, too, we strike the Monroe doctrine; and as a powerful agency in behalf of peace between our loyal and rebellious States, one of the leading Richmond journals has recently broad platform for the reconciliation of the North and South. Now, considering the hopeless situation of Davis and his confederacy, we believe that Mexico and the Monroe doctrine may be made in reality the basis of reunion and peace. Nor is it improbable that this will be the solution of the rebellion and of all the schemes and movements of Napoleon, Maximilian and Dr. Gwin, in Mexico. The passage by the House of Representatives, by the re quired two-thirds vote, of the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery throughout the United States removes the slavery stumbling block out of our way in both sections. It does this because this amendment will surely be ratified by three-fourths of the States, counting all the States of the Union, and because the rebel lious States must speedily now succumb. may now expect, therefore, an easy solution of the problem of peace, and then we shall see the "manifest destiny" of Mexico, under this Monroe doctrine.

THE RECENT DECISION ON THE BANK TAX-ITS EFFECT ON NEW YORK.—The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States declares unconstitutional and void the act of the Legislature of this State, passed in 1862, assessing directly the capital of moneyed institutions, irrespective of their investments in stocks and securities of the United States. This decision disturbs materially the existing system of taxation, and most onerously affects the city of New York. In 1863 the capital of banks and insurance companies was assessed a eighty-eight million one hundred and sixtythree thousand nine hundred and sixty-one dollars; and the exemption claimed actually amounted to ninety million two hundred and thirty-four thousand seven hundred and fortyone dollars-showing conclusively that these incorporations had invested a portion of their profits and deposits in United States securities as well as their capital. From the records in the office of the Tax Commissioners the in vestments of these institutions continued the same in 1864, with the difference only that the aggregate capital had increased to ninety-nine millions of dollars.

The corporation of the city of New York will be compelled to refund the tax collected in 1863-amounting to nearly a million of dollarsand strike off the assessment rolls of 1864 (now in course of collection) one million six hundred thousand dollars, being the amount of their taxable liability. It is true that the decision of the Supreme Court holds that individual shareholders are liable to taxation; but they will of course escape for the years 1863 and 1864, the assessment lists having been confirmed, and the individual assessments determined and paid for those years. In reference to the taxes of 1865, a serious difficulty exists, that should be removed by legisla-

large proportion of the stock of moneyed institu owned abroad, or in other States, and cannot be reached by existing laws; and against the balance held by our own citizens within the State, the right exists to set off individual indebtedness, thus seriously reducing the taxes collected by this means.

The principle insisted upon in the Senate in the recent discussion of the Bounty bill was that the surplus capital in the country found its way to this city, and was invested in moneyed orporations, which, while adding to our general prosperity, contributed to our revenues by its liability to taxation, and should to some considerable extent, therefore, be held responsible for the expenses incurred in other counties of the State in raising recruits. The decision to which we have referred certainly renders this pretext no longer tenable.

Hereafter every citizen, whether he resides in St. Lawrence or Richmond county, will there alone be held taxable for his shares in corporations doing business in this city; and having to surrender this advantage, we should not be held responsible for its enjoyment.

General Ben. Butler and Sir John Falstaff-The Hero of Gadshill and the

General Butler was ordered to report at Lowell, and has, he says, "reported in full." By this he does not mean that he has done what the War Department intended that he should do, but that he has done just what the department did not intend that he should do. He very consistently perverts the phraseology of the order to cover his private purpose. He was welcomed at Lowell by his admirers, and he made a speech there which he throws down as his defiance-his "report"-to the army authorities which sent him to that peaceful place. He utters his speech and seems to ask the department if it can stand that. We are disposed to believe that it can. The speech is a lame and empty one. They who are good at making excuses, it is said, are good at nothing else. Butler, therefore, who is not good at anything else, ought to be good at making excuses. But he is not good even at that. His speech rambles over a large part of his career, and makes many explanations, many excuses statements, and even jests; but not an excla mation, statement or jest that is not contemptible, and not an excuse that is not as ridiculous as Falstaff's excuse for his action on Gadshill. Fat Jack was a "coward on instinct." Was it for him to kill the heir apparent? And Butler, a coward on conscience, inquires in the same triumphant style, "Was it for me to take Fort Fisher at such a sacrifice?"

Butler was particularly careful to inform his earers that he was not removed on account of the Fort Fisher failure. He did not tell what the real reason was. He knows it, however. It is a great secret. He has not "received permission to divulge it." Convenient circumstance! But when did Butler ever wait for "permission" before this. He was complaisant enough, however, to explain how it was that he did not take Fort Fisher. - It seems that this matter has been misunderstood by every one. The capture of Fort Fisher was nothing-the real achievement was to be able to go down there and see Fort Fisher and not take it. Butler's real struggle was not against the enemy, but against the temptation to go at the enemy There they stood in their fort, and looked so "sassy" that he could hardly keep his hands off them. It was so impudent in them, too, to build their darned old fort right there on the open beach, that it made him mad, and when e thought of it be could hardly keep his dander down. But he did, though.

Hear it, oh, Bardolph, Nym, Pistol and Prince Hal! It was only on instinct that the tun of man was a coward—the instinct that knew royalty, though it came in the garb of a minion of the moon, ready to cut purses. But the doughty Ben goes a flight higher. He failed, ran away, left his enemy alone, not on in stinct, but by Divine assistance. He prayed for it. All the time that he was in front of Fort Fisher there was great danger that be would give way to his weakness, and make a desperate rush and take it. But he was the time praying to the Lord for strength to let it alone. "The temptation"—these are his own words-"was strong to take it;" but he prayed "lead us not into temptation." though the "temptation was strong," the Lord was a little stronger, and managed to hold Butler back. Therefore the enemy kept Fort Fisher. It is wonderful, when we come to find it out, what heroism it requires not to be a hero. What greatness is implied in the fact of being little. What strength a man must have to resist the temptation to achieve greatness and to remain forever an infinite pigmy. But a man may not always be so strong, and they had better keep Butler away from the enemy's forts after this or there will be bloodshed-but "three of a hundred and fifty left alive," may

But Butler has an ambition as to his epitaph. He desires that it shall be, "Here lies the General who saved the lives of his soldiers at Fort Fisher and Big Bethel." Is not this the unadulterated Chinese of heroics? But how many soldiers did he save at Big Bethel? On the contrary, Big Bethel was a useless and stupid slaughter. It was the massacre of many men in the attempt to carry a worthless position. It will be truer, then, to say simply, "Here lies the General who saved the lives of his soldiers at Fort Fisher." That is, here lies the general whose thoughts, when in front of the enemy, dwelt more on the fear of what the enemy would do against him, than on the hope of what he could do against the enemy. Here lies the general who was cautious and stood still in safety while others went through the iron storm to success; the general who would not try to carry a fort that another general carried gallantly a few days later, and who then imputed his failure to consideration for human life. "If twere not for those yillanous guns he would himself have been a soldier."

Sir John Falstaff is a reality in English his tory. Shakspere in that figure gives us the ploture of a character that appears in all the great civil wars of England. And Samuel Butler, in the figure of Hudibras, gives us the same figure brought down to a later period, clothed in the garb and having the manners and phrases of mother time. He is a brave soldier, vaunts his achievements immensely in his speeches, and always runs away when there is likely to be a row. He can lie with electric fluency, and claim the achievements of others with an effrontery that is sublime. He is peculiar in person and in thought-a distorted form and mind—the exaggeration of all the peculiar vices of the age in which he lives. He is a

the life of a people—a political general when political generals are a disease. The parallel s obvious. Butler is the continuation into our own time of the same historical person.

Wrongs of the Premeditated Draft-Au

We gave in our columns yesterday the re narks of Supervisor Blunt, in the Board of Supervisors on Monday. This is a most portant speech, and must attract general atention for the facts which are embodied in it relative to the acts of the County Volunteering Committee and the monstrous demand just made upon us for twenty-one thousand men The Supervisors' County Volunteering and Bounty Paying Committee commenced opera-tions in August, 1863. Since May, 1863, and including which, the government have demanded from the country, on various calls, one million five hundred thousand men, the proper-tion for the city of New York being fifty-eight thousand five hundred and eight men, every quota having been filled by the committee, at total cost to the county of six millions seven hundred and thirty-two thousand six hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirty-eight cents, or a trifle over one hundred dollars per man. These are significant facts, and show bow

faithful and industrious our committee have been in its successful endeavors to respond to every fair demand of the government. But here is a different state of affairs now existing Another call for three hundred thousand men has been made, and the number demanded by General Fry, in his communication in December from the city of New York, as a deficiency, was four thousand four hundred and thirty-three men. Even this was more than the books of the committee showed was due the government but it was assumed to be correct, and the committee went assiduously to work to fill this quota. when, presto, another order is received from this incomprehensible public officer demanding on this call twenty-one thousand and ninetee men! No one, not even the committee itself, seems to know on what this monstrou demand is based. On the earlier calls for five hundred thousand men our quota was fixed at twenty-three thousand one hundred and forty. How Mr. Fry can cypher out our quota at twenty-one thousand and nine teen on a call for three hundred thousand is beyond our ken. Thirteen thousand would be nearer the truth. But he may arrive at these figures (twenty-one thousand and nineteen) by taking from us our naval enlistments, on the ground that they cost the county nothing. But this he cannot do without ignoring positive act of Congress, which declares that all naval enlistments since 1861, not credited to any district, shall be credited to the town or district in which such enlistments were made. This, though a most just law, was not instigated by any New York influence. Other cities than this hoped to benefit by it, and have done se; but none so greatly perhaps as New York. This was her good fortune, and not her fault. Mr. Blunt, chairman of the committee, set

immediately at work to take advantage of this law of Congress by overhauling the naval enlistments made at this port, and he luckily found the numbers very large, sufficient to fill our late quota, and a surplus for some future call over. The acts of our committee were acceded to by the Provost Marshal, and our quota acknowledged by him to be complete, even after taking from us numbers sufficient to fill the quota of Kings county, which he had, under the law, no right to do. Now all this work, it is suspected, is ignored, and these naval entments taken from us after having been conceded, and scattered over the country, and especially in districts which have been backward in filling their quotas, owing to otism. But General Fry certainly has no right, no power, to commit so gross a wrong as this, and, while we stand fully credited with every soldier demanded of us, thus scatter the accounts to the winds, and force us at this late hour into a conscription to raise twenty-one thousand more

This is an outrage on common sense, and its palpable unfairness and injustice will lead, we fear, to the most deplorable results General Fry can know little of the state of feeling his order has created among all classes. or he would pause, or the government would, before attempting to enforce this great wrong. Our capitalists are interested in this ques tion far more than they appear to realize A conscription here takes from us twentyone thousand men mainly from the great middle class, the small traders, industrious and hard-working. The large mass of floaling population, myriads of men who have no especial ties among us, will not be caught; they will all be off. So will also large numbers of our wealthy young men, while others will find substitutes. The draft would, therefore, deprive us probably of at least fifty thousand able-bodied men, most of them the very life-blood of this great commercial city. The mere common laboring man now gets

his two dollars and fifty cents per day for his work. This is equal to seven hundred and fifty dollars per annum. Take away fifty thousand able-bodied men from among us, and it is equal to abstracting thirty-seven and a half millions of dollars. The act is in fact a confis cation of property as well as a conscrip tion of men. This enormous demand upon us is wrong, and unjust in another aspect; it takes from us one-fifth (one man five) of our voting population, while in most other districts in the State the proportion is about one in twelve or thirteen, while is sachusetts it is one in seventeen!

Look as we will upon this wonderful figuring of Provost Marshal General Fry, we can find nothing to justify his strange proce ings and vacillating course towards this citycity which, as we have before said, has given double the money of any other for putting down the rebellion, and has sent to the field, in cluding our militia, over one hundred and thirty-six thousand men. General Fry must review his proceedings, or the Secretary of War and the President must for his The committee sent from here must be listened to, and where injustice and wrong-doing is made palpable, let it be corrected. Do us no wrong, and New York will do all that is right. As she has been faithful beretofore, she will be faithful still.

A FLEET FOR EUROPE.—It has been stated that the Navy Department intends sending a large fleet to Europe to clear out the foreign